

Claim Amendments

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-4 (cancelled).

Claim 5 (currently amended): A device for stacking flat, flexible postal items in a stacking compartment in an upright position, comprising:

a stacking roller positionable in proximity of the stacking compartment;

a covered belt system configured to feed the postal items consecutively to the stacking roller, wherein the belt system has a first belt and a second belt;

a deflection roller disposed on an axis and configured to deflect the first belt from the second belt so that the second belt continues to transport a postal item to the stacking roller;

a profile roller arranged on the deflection roller and having a predetermined roller length, wherein the profile roller includes a plurality of diameter taperings over a length thereof; and

deflectable pressure means disposed to press the postal items into the diameter taperings of the first profile roller to reduce a free flexible ~~lengths~~ length of each of the postal items.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The device of claim 5, wherein the taperings of the profile roller are distributed over the roller length so that upper edges of the postal items of a permitted item format do not protrude beyond a defined maximum dimension so that an opening of a postal item is avoided above a highest tapering covered by the postal item.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The device of claim 5, wherein the deflectable pressure means include deflectable pressure rollers, which can be pressed with spring pressure against the taperings of the profile roller, and wherein the pressure rollers have smaller diameters than the taperings of the profile roller.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The device of claim 5, wherein the deflectable pressure means include a profiled pressure roller having a profile that corresponds to a profile of the profile roller, wherein the profiled pressure roller is disposed such that diameter taperings thereof are located at heights of untapered sections of the profile roller.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The device of claim 5, wherein a pressure force of the deflectable pressure means is selected to avoid damaging stiff postal items by deforming them.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The device of claim 5, wherein each of the taperings extend in a circumferential direction about the profile roller.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The device of claim 5, wherein the deflectable pressure means include spring-biased deflectable pressure rollers, each of the taperings having a respective one of the spring-biased deflectable rollers disposed opposite thereto.